



Ministry of Education

International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness

Founder Acarya: A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

1. Please write a summary of the achievements in your Ministry during 2022 in the following categories:

a. Education and Training

- Summative Exams program introduced by the ministry provides by far the most accessible and convenient way for top leaders, preachers, sannyasis and senior members of the movement to become Bhakti Shastri and Bhakti Vaibhava certified. The candidate's eligibility to write the exam is assessed by using stringent criteria based on years of service, accomplishments, character, track record of deep and thorough knowledge of Srila Prabhupada's books and evidence of practical application in the candidate's personal life for a significantly long time. The eligible candidates are then required to simply write a one time, closed book, summative exam under invigilation. The answers are checked for sound understanding of philosophical conclusions as presented in Srila Prabhupada's books and adherence to His Divine Grace's mood, mission and vision. Upon obtaining the passing grades in the exam, the candidate is awarded the relevant certificate. The goal of the program is for leaders to get certified, thereby sending a powerful message about the importance and value of these certificates to those who are inspired by them and motivate such members to also make efforts to read and get certified. [Summative Examinations – ISKCON Ministry of Education \(iskconeducation.org\)](https://iskconeducation.org)
- The number of Bhakti Shastri and Bhakti Vaibhava graduates doubled in the last 3 years with about 20,000 graduates at present. [Verify Certificate – ISKCON Ministry of Education \(iskconeducation.org\)](https://iskconeducation.org)
- Number of registered examination centers more than doubled in the same period, going up from 55 to 118. [Sastric Examination Centers – ISKCON Ministry of Education \(iskconeducation.org\)](https://iskconeducation.org)
- We celebrated the 3rd Annual Books are the Basis festival week in 2022 with the kind participation of devotees across the globe. Several presentations and Podcasts were made on a single book of Srila Prabhupada on each day of the week which saw enthusiastic participation by devotees in large numbers. All the resources are available at [Books Are The Basis Week 2022 – ISKCON Ministry of Education \(iskconeducation.org\)](https://iskconeducation.org)



Ministry of Education

International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness

Founder Acarya: A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda

b. Publications

- The Ministry of Education in joint collaboration with HG Devakinandan Prabhu from Kazakhstan, came out with the “Conscious Reading” book. Based on Srila Prabhupada’s instructions regarding reading His Divine Grace’s books, it is written with the express purpose of making the daily reading of Prabhupada’s books an achievable goal for all devotees. A course based on the book is being prepared. The book can be accessed at [Conscious Reading – ISKCON Ministry of Education \(iskconeducation.org\)](http://iskconeducation.org)
- We continue to maintain and expand on our Books are the Basis program, interviewing more than 50 senior devotees and leaders within our movement to share the impact that daily reading Srila Prabhupada's books had on their lives, publishing these in-depth interviews every week on your youtube channel, alongside other original content that we created, with the singular goal of inspiring our subscribers to increase their readership of Prabhupada's books. Due to its popularity, we were encouraged to publish over 300 videos, one for each day of the year, entitled "One Minute Nectar Drops", an experimental initiative we started a year ago that shares a specific realization from a leader, which focuses on one of the many galvanizing moments in their personal journey. [Nectar Drops - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
- Keeping with tradition, we celebrated our 4'th Annual International Education Symposium with the theme “Together Towards Tomorrow.”, hosting the entire event on Zoom. 16 top educators from across geographies and areas of specialization shared the success of and learnings from their projects, offered invaluable perspectives on different aspects of education in ISKCON, it’s relevance in the secular world, scope of expansion and future possibilities and challenges. The seminars are getting more popular each year as evidenced by participation and engagement numbers and hopefully inspires more and more educators to kick start their own educational projects. As always, every session from our Viplavah Symposium has been published, and made available to the public on our YouTube channel. [Viplavah 2022 LIVE - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

c. Website/E-mail

- The Ministry of Education has created a Digital Verification System enabling individuals and institutions to verify the authenticity of Shastric degrees issued. This increases the value of the degree by making it difficult to make fake claims or obtaining it by fraudulent means, lending the degree more credibility. This also allows devotees in managerial positions in ISKCON to trust the degree holder’s credentials and actually use the degree as eligibility criteria for certain roles and positions as the authenticity of the degrees can now be verified online withing a matter of seconds. www.iskconeducation.org



Ministry of Education

International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness

Founder Acarya: A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda

- The Ministry has managed to double its Youtube subscriber base from 2000 last year to close to 4000. Our telegram and whatsapp channels are similarly growing, with new members joining in daily. [ISKCON MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - YouTube](#)

d. Team

- We on-boarded a senior manager to oversee and supervise the ministry's various projects and now have 4 devotees working full time for the ministry. [Our Team – ISKCON Ministry of Education \(iskconeducation.org\)](#)
- In addition to the core team, the ministry is actively engaging more than 20 devotees in its various projects fostering a culture of inclusivity, openness and meaningful engagement with the community of devotees we are meant to serve. We are also actively scouting for devotees with specific skillsets in areas such as communications and public relations for Regional Representation, background in hard sciences or academia to help with teachers training and curriculum development etc. [Regional Representatives – ISKCON Ministry of Education \(iskconeducation.org\)](#)

e. Resources

- We have compiled an updated database of all authorized Shastric Examination Centres within ISKCON and published it on the website, allowing devotees to find and contact one nearest to them. This will be a great help in removing doubts, confusion and frustration as devotees will not need to waste time looking for information on Shastric examination centres here and there. [Sastric Examination Centers – ISKCON Ministry of Education \(iskconeducation.org\)](#)
- The 'Sanskrit Pronunciation of ISKCON Prayers' course was added and made freely available on our website along with all other existing educational resources like quizzes, question banks, presentations, study guides, curriculums, and much more which were uploaded last year. [Courses – ISKCON Ministry of Education \(iskconeducation.org\)](#)

f. Challenges

- 2022 has been a year of growth for the Ministry. We have kick started several new projects, several of them being large in their size and far reaching in scale and scope. To maintain, manage and grow all these requires manpower. Hiring more full-time devotees or getting professional contractual help are both contingent on having adequate funding.



Ministry of Education

International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness

Founder Acarya: A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda

2. Please share your vision for the activities of the Ministry for 2022.

a. Vision

- The Ministry of Education's foundational ethos remains the same - Books are the Basis. Our purpose remains the same - To enhance the culture of reading Srila Prabhupada's books in ISKCON temples and congregations. Our Vision remains the same - To make Srila Prabhupada's books the most widely read spiritual literature on the planet.

b. Progressive goals

- Srila Prabhupada was very keen on devotees being able to present Krishna Conscious philosophy in an authoritative manner to the educated and intelligent class of people, including the scientists, philosophers, thinkers and leaders in society. The ministry will focus its efforts in this direction by bringing together devotees who are actively and successfully engaged in this area and empowering them to create systems, process, education materials and training programs for the teachers and prospective bright students in the movement to realize this goal. Devotees should be able to present in a scholarly and scientific manner the philosophy and practices of Gaudiya Vaishnavism and not be seen as merely dogmatic or sentimental. We have already begun work behind the scenes in this direction and hope to have some tangible output in the direction next year.

c. Needs

- We seek increase in our funding since it is the biggest limitation to be able to expand at the pace we would like to. With significant increase in the number of projects, we need experienced and capable devotee managers and administrators to run the projects and ensure delivery and outcomes. We also need diverse skillsets on a need-based, contractual basis for e.g IT developers, graphic designers, illustrators, etc. We plan to increase our online footprint which required creating quality content, which in turn needs some equipment and the need to invest in upskilling existing team member or getting more people on board, all of which needs funding to do so.
- While for the past 3 years the ministry's activities were sustained through funds received from the GBC body and by personal donations from the Minister of Education, this year we plan to seek funding via donations from devotees who feel inspired with the projects we are undertaking to increase the reading of Srila Prabhupada's books.



Ministry of Education

International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness

Founder Acarya: A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda

3. If you have any message for the GBC Executive Committee, please write it here:

We thank the GBC body for their support. In general, and like most other ministries we request higher funding to be able to maintain our existing programs and pursue new opportunities and take more initiative. We remain grateful to devotees around the world for their appreciation and prayers. It is a pleasure to be able to serve the Ministry that His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada established himself.

Your servant,

Tapana Miśra Dāsa

Minister

On behalf of the Ministry of Education team